AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): An active telecommunications network comprising:

an active node (11) comprising active code reception means and an active code execution environment; and

a signaling control unit (3) comprising:

means for receiving a request (5) to set up a virtual circuit between a client terminal (1) and a server terminal (2);

a virtual circuit set-up means; and

means controlled by the virtual circuit set-up means for sending active code to the active node.

2.   (original): A network according to claim 1, characterized in that the signaling control unit further comprises:

an active code library; and

means for selecting active code in the library.

3.   (currently amended): A network according to claim 2, characterized in that the signaling control unit (3) further comprises active code compilation means.

4.   (currently amended): A network according to claim 1, characterized in that the signaling control unit (3) further comprises means for generating active code on the fly.

5.   (previously presented): A network according to claim 1 adapted to use the Internet Protocol (IP).

6.   (currently amended): A signaling method for use in a telecommunications network according to claim 1 an active telecommunications network comprising an active node comprising active code reception means and an active code execution environment, and a signaling control unit comprising, means for receiving a request to set up a virtual circuit between a client terminal and a server terminal, virtual circuit set-up means, and means controlled by the virtual circuit set-up means for sending active code to the active node, the method comprising:

a sending step (8) of sending an appropriate active code from the signaling control unit (3) to the active node (11).

7.   (original): A method according to claim 6, comprising a step prior to the sending step of deciding on a strategy for sending of the appropriate active code by the signaling control unit.

8.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 76, comprising a step prior to the sending step and optionally prior to the strategy decision step of the signaling control unit determining the appropriate active code.

9.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 8, comprising a step prior to the determination step of negotiation between the terminals and the signaling control unit (3) of the characteristics of a communications session.

10.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 9~~6~~, comprising a step prior to the negotiation step of the signaling control unit receiving the virtual circuit request (5) and setting up the virtual circuit.

11.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein, when the signaling control unit (3) comprises ~~the~~ an active code library and a selection means which selects active code in the library, the determination step comprises ~~the~~ a selection by the signaling control unit (3) of the appropriate active code in the library.

12.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein, when the signaling control unit (3) comprises an active code generation means, the determination step comprises ~~the~~ a generation of the appropriate active code on the fly by the signaling control unit (3).

13.   (new): A network according to claim 1, wherein the means controlled by the virtual circuit set-up means for sending active code to the active node reduces mismatching between stream characteristics required by an application and an instantaneous state of the active telecommunication network.

14.   (new): A network according to claim 1, wherein the client terminal transmits a data stream to the server terminal.

15.   (new): A method according to claim 6, wherein the means controlled by the virtual circuit set-up means for sending active code to the active node reduces mismatching between stream characteristics required by an application and an instantaneous state of the active telecommunication network.

16.   (new): A method according to claim 6, wherein the client terminal transmits a data stream to the server terminal.